

**CLAIMS**

1. A method comprising:

setting parameters for ordering print media;

gathering daily print media usage data;

5 developing a usage distribution from the usage data;

correlating one or more of the parameters with the usage distribution to  
determine a usage tolerance; and

from the usage tolerance and one or more of the parameters, calculating a date  
when a current supply of print media will be depleted.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

automatically placing an order for an additional supply of print media such that  
the additional supply of print media is received prior to the date.

3. A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising:

resetting one or more of the parameters upon receiving the additional supply of  
print media.

4. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the automatically placing an

20 order further comprises:

retrieving a uniform resource locator (URL) for a vendor;

contacting the vendor by way of the URL; and

transferring user identification and order detail information to the vendor.

25 5. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

warning a user to manually place an order for an additional supply of print media  
such that the additional supply of print media is received prior to the date.

6. A method as recited in claim 5, further comprising:

resetting one or more of the parameters upon receiving the additional supply of print media.

7. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the warning further comprises:

retrieving a telephone number for a vendor;

contacting the vendor by way of the telephone number; and

transferring user identification and order detail information to the vendor.

8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the correlating further comprises:

accessing a look-up table that matches the one or more parameters to the usage tolerance.

9. A print device, having computer-readable media with computer-readable

instructions for performing the method as recited in claim 1.

10. A computer, having computer-readable media with computer-readable

instructions for performing the method as recited in claim 1.

11. A method comprising:

setting a notification limit;

setting a confidence level;

setting an initial media supply level;

gathering daily media usage data to develop a usage distribution;

correlating the confidence level to a daily usage tolerance within the usage distribution; and

from the initial media supply level and the media usage tolerance, calculating the days remaining before the initial media supply level is depleted.

12. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

5 automatically placing an order for additional media supplies when the days remaining are equal to or less than the notification limit.

13. A method as recited in claim 12, further comprising:

10 resetting one or more of the parameters upon receiving the additional media supplies.

14. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the automatically placing an order further comprises:

15 retrieving a uniform resource locator (URL) for a vendor;

contacting the vendor by way of the URL; and

transferring user identification and order detail information to the vendor.

15. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

20 warning a user to manually place an order for additional media supplies when the days remaining are equal to or less than the notification limit.

16. A method as recited in claim 15, further comprising:

25 resetting one or more of the parameters upon receiving the additional media supplies.

17. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the calculating further comprises:

subtracting a multiple of the daily usage tolerance from the initial media supply level to determine a remaining supply level; and

5 dividing the remaining supply level by the daily usage tolerance.

18. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the multiple is equal to the number of days elapsed between setting the initial media supply level and the calculating.

19. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the correlating further comprises:

accessing a look-up table that matches the confidence level to the daily usage tolerance.

20. A print device, having computer-readable media with computer-readable instructions for performing the method as recited in claim 11.

21. A computer, having computer-readable media with computer-readable instructions for performing the method as recited in claim 11.

22. In a printing system having consumable print media and a cartridge with consumable marking agent, a method comprising:

detecting when a trigger event occurs within the cartridge; and

25 placing an order for additional print media when the trigger event is detected.

23. A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:

setting parameters for ordering print media;

gathering daily print media usage data;

developing a per-cartridge usage distribution from the usage data;

5 correlating one or more of the parameters with the usage distribution to determine a usage tolerance; and

controlling the size of the order with the usage tolerance.

24. A method as recited in claim 23, wherein one of the parameters is a user confidence level, and wherein the correlating is correlating the user confidence level with the usage distribution to determine a usage tolerance.

25. A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:

placing an order for a new cartridge when the trigger event is detected.

26. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the cartridge comprises memory storing a vendor uniform resource locator (URL), and wherein the placing an order further comprises:

retrieving the vendor URL from the memory;

20 contacting the vendor by way of the URL; and

providing an order to the vendor.

27. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the cartridge comprises memory storing a vendor telephone number, and wherein the placing an order further comprises:

25 retrieving the vendor telephone number from the memory;

contacting the vendor by way of the telephone number; and

providing an order to the vendor.

28. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the trigger event is a signal indicating a low level of marking agent within the cartridge.

5 29. A printer comprising:

consumable print media; and

a printer controller configured to develop a usage distribution from daily print media usage data and correlate a user confidence level with the usage distribution to determine a usage tolerance;

10 the printer controller further configured to calculate a date when a current supply of print media will be depleted using the usage tolerance.

15 30. A printer as recited in claim 29, wherein the printer controller is further configured to automatically place an order for an additional supply of print media such that the additional supply of print media is received prior to the date.

31. A printer comprising:

a cartridge containing a consumable marking agent;

a detector to sense a level of marking agent within the cartridge;

20 a supply of consumable print media; and

a controller configured to place an order for additional print media when the detector senses a low level of marking agent.

25 32. A printer as recited in claim 31, wherein the controller is further configured to develop a distribution of per-cartridge print media usage, correlate a confidence parameter with the distribution to determine a usage tolerance, and control the size of the order based on the usage tolerance.

33. A computer coupled to a print device, the print device comprising a supply of consumable print media, a consumable marking agent, and a detector to sense a level of the marking agent, the computer comprising:

5 a printer controller configured to place an order for additional print media when the detector senses a low level of marking agent.

34. A system comprising:

a marking agent cartridge;

10 a detector to provide a sensed level of marking agent within the cartridge; and

a controller configured to develop a distribution of print media usage, correlate a confidence parameter with the distribution to determine a usage tolerance, and control the size of a print media order based on the usage tolerance;

15 the controller further configured to place the order when the detector senses a low level of marking agent.

35. A system as recited in claim 34, wherein the controller is a printer controller located on a print device.

20 36. A system as recited in claim 34, wherein the controller is a printer controller located on a host computer.